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Overview

Typically, case parties and the attorneys for the parties—with the exception of attorneys for defendants—are entered at the time a case is initiated. The Case Initiation screen provides tabs for the entry of plaintiffs (or appellants or transferors) and defendants (or respondents or transferees). In a few situations, there are provisions in the E-Filing system for the entry of additional parties after the case has been initiated. These parties include third party plaintiffs and defendants (not already named on the case), and intervenors. In October 2017, System changes were made to allow and "other" parties such as insurance companies in underinsured (UIM) and uninsured (UM) motorist situations, or a third party bidder in a foreclosure action when a writ of assistance is filed to add a party to file on behalf of. Co-Counsel and Guardians ad Litem may also be added by the E-Filer. *New parties introduced into the case will be approved or rejected by the Clerk of Court.* You may only add a party that you represent, such as, for instance, a UIM carrier that needs to appear and answer in a case.

You may NOT add parties where Court approval is required. Examples of action types that may result in the addition of parties to the case, and which you may not use the Add A Party function to add a new case party, include, but are not limited to:

- Amended Summons and Complaint
- Motion/Substitute Parties
- Motion/Add a Party

The Clerk of Court is solely responsible for the entry of parties such as Receivers, Witnesses, Mediators, Arbitrators, Special Referees, and Court Reporters.

Improperly indicating that a new party should be added to a case may result in the rejection of your submission.

If you are filing a pleading that seeks to add a new party to a case, the best practice is to include the information in the **Special Filing Instructions for the Clerk** on the Review and Approve Filing page to draw attention to this matter.





Third Party Plaintiffs and Defendants

This section of the guide will demonstrate the correct procedure to file a document that adds a Third Party Defendant to a case in the E-Filing system. Please note that neither the E-Filing system nor CMS recognize fourth, fifth, or subsequent parties to a case. All additional parties are treated as "Third Parties" and should generally be identified as defendants.

You may add third party defendants to a case through the use of either of two filings: (1) Summons/Third Party Summons and (2) Complaint or Answer/Answer and Third Party Summons and Complaint.





- 1. On the Add a Document screen, choose the **Action Type** of **Filing**.
- 2. Using the **Action** dropdown, select the **Third Party** action description that best describes the document you are filing.
- 3. Click **Browse** to locate and select your saved .pdf document.
- 4. Click Add.



5. On the Case Participants page, click **Add a Defendant**. The Add a Party window will open.

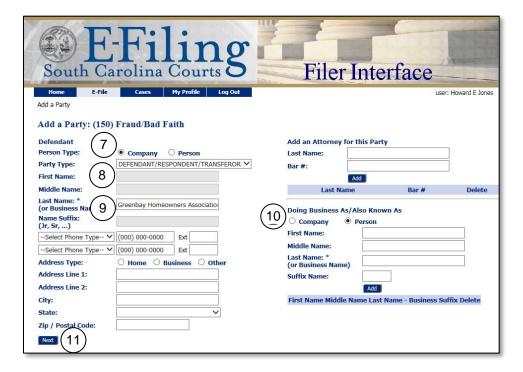




By default, the E-Filing system assumes you are representing any parties you may be adding. Since this is not true, you will need to delete yourself as the attorney for the new defendant.

6. Click Delete.





- 7. Select the **Company** or **Person** radio button.
- 8. Optional, depending on whether Company or Person was selected, enter a First Name.
- 9. Enter the Last or Business Name.
- 10. Optional, add a Doing Business As or Also Known As name for your third party.
- 11. Click Next.



12. Back on the Case Participants page, you may continue to add additional Third Party Defendants as described above, or click **Next** to return to the Add a Document page.





- 13. Using the **On Behalf of** dropdown, select the correct parties and click **Add**.
- 14. Click **Next** when you have finished adding documents to this submission. You will be advanced to the Review and Approve Filing page.

Intervenors

This section will explain the process of filing a Motion to Intervene.



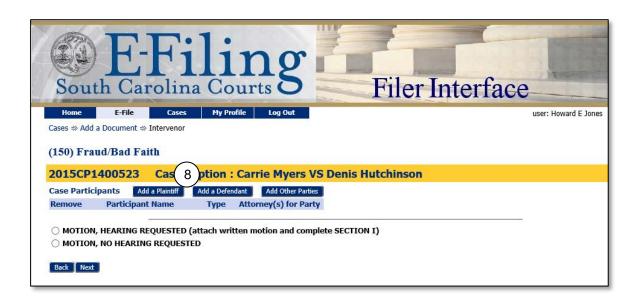
To access a case for the first time:

- 1. Enter the Case Number.
- 2. Select the appropriate **County** from the County dropdown.
- 3. Click E-File.





- 4. On the Add a Document screen, choose the **Action Type** of **Motion**.
- 5. Using the Action dropdown, select Motion/Intervene.
- 6. Click **Browse** to locate and select your saved .pdf document.
- 7. Click Add. An Intervenor page will open.



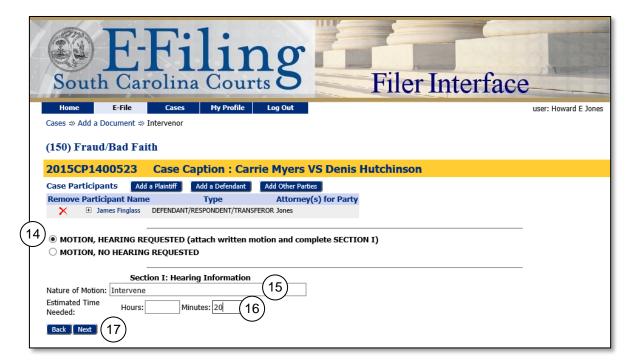
8. On the Intervenor page, select **Add a Plaintiff** or **Add a Defendant**, depending upon how the intervening party plans to proceed in the case. The Add a Party page will be displayed.





- 9. Select the Company or Person radio button.
- 10. Optional, depending on whether Company or Person was selected, enter a First Name.
- 11. Enter the Last or Business Name.
- 12. Optionally, add a **Doing Business As** or **Also Known As** name for your third party.
- 13. Click **Next** to return to the Intervenor page.





- 14. If a hearing is needed, click the **Motion**, **Hearing Requested** radio button. A section for **Hearing Information** will open.
- 15. Enter the Nature of Motion.
- 16. Enter the **Estimated Time Needed** (Hours and/or Minutes).
- 17. Click Next.



- 18. Using the **On Behalf of** dropdown, select the parties on whose behalf you are intervening, and click **Add**.
- 19. To submit your filing to the court, click **Next**. You will be advanced to the Review and Approve Filing page. Continue through the payment process, as for any other motion.



Other Case Parties

This section will explain the process of filing to a case and adding an "other" case party, such as an insurance company or a third party bidder.



To access a case for the first time:

- 1. Enter the Case Number.
- 2. Select the appropriate **County** from the County dropdown.
- 3. Click E-File.

This process will direct you to the Add a Document page.



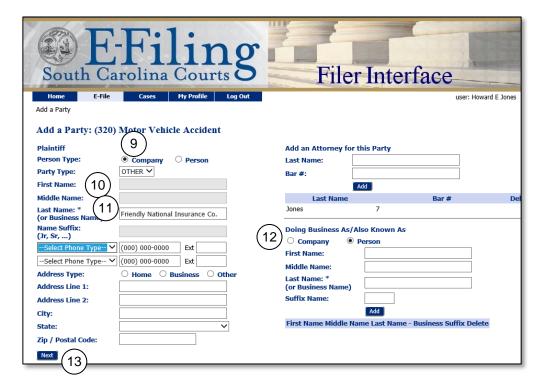


- 4. On the Add a Document screen, choose the **Action Type** of **Filing.**
- 5. Using the Action dropdown, select the Add Party to Case.
- 6. Note that the **Browse** feature is protected. No document will be attached to this filing.
- 7. Click Add. A Select Party page will open.



8. On the Select Party page, select Add Other Parties. The Add a Party page will be displayed.





- 9. Select the **Company** or **Person** radio button.
- 10. Optional, depending on whether Company or Person was selected, enter a First Name.
- 11. Enter the Last or Business Name.
- 12. Optionally, add a **Doing Business As** or **Also Known As** name for your third party.
- 13. Click **Next** to return to the Select Party page.



- 14. Observe the red warning message: You must file a pleading together with the Add a Party Action, although that document will not attach directly to the Add a Party action. If you neglect to file an additional pleading, the Clerk of Court may reject your filing.
- 15. You may continue to add additional parties if necessary. When all parties have been added, click **Next.**



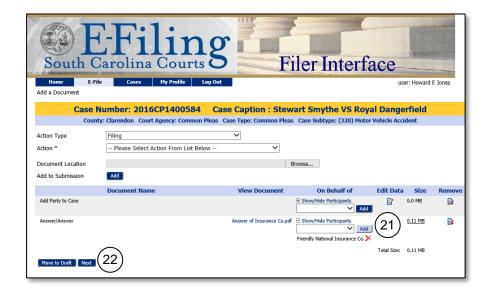


16. Using the **On Behalf of** dropdown, select the party Or parties on whose behalf you are filing, and click **Add**.



- 17. On the Add a Document screen, choose the Action Type of Filing.
- 18. Using the **Action** dropdown, select the **Third Party** action description that best describes the document you are filing.
- 19. Click Browse to locate and select your saved .pdf document.
- 20. Click Add.





- 21. Using the **On Behalf of** dropdown, select the party Or parties on whose behalf you are filing, and click **Add**.
- 22. You may continue to add additional documents if necessary. When all documents have been included, click **Next.** You will be advanced to the Review and Approve Filing page. Continue through the payment process, if payment is required.

New and Co-Counsel

This section will explain the process of adding oneself as co-counsel, or as new counsel. The E-filing system allows an attorney to add other attorneys as co-counsel when a case is filed, when entering a Notice of Appearance, or filing a Motion to Intervene. However, new counsel or new (additional) co-counsel need to introduce themselves into the case by filing a Notice of Appearance.

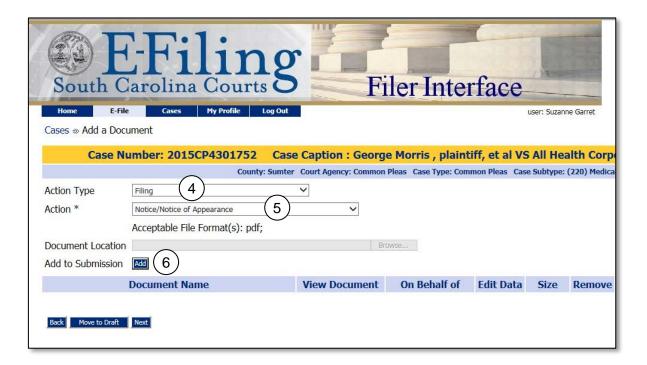


To access a case for the first time:

- 1. Enter the Case Number.
- 2. Select the appropriate **County** from the **County** dropdown.
- 3. Click E-File.



This process will direct you to the Add a Document page.



On the Add a Document Page:

- 4. Select the Action Type of Filing.
- 5. Select the Action of Notice/Notice of Appearance.
- 6. Click Add. The Notice of Appearance page will display.





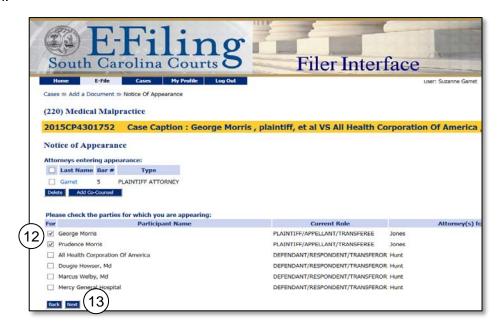
By default, the E-filing system assumes that attorneys entering a Notice of Appearance will be counsel for defendants.

- 7. If you are entering Notice of Appearance for a defendant, click the **Check box** to the left of the name of the defendant or defendants you will be representing.
- 8. Click **Next** to return to the Add a Document page.



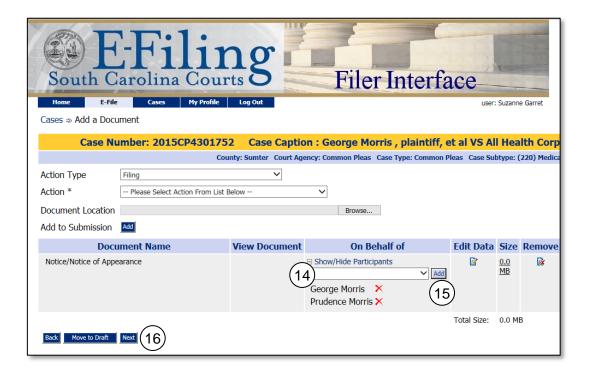


- 9. If you are adding yourself as a Plaintiff's attorney, Guardian ad Litem for a Plaintiff or Guardian ad Litem for a Defendant, you will first need to click the **Last Name** hyperlink for your name. This opens an **Edit Attorney** dialogue box.
- 10. In the dropdown labeled Type, select Plaintiff Attorney, Guardian ad Litem for Plaintiff, or Guardian ad Litem for Defendant as applicable to the situation.
- 11. Click **Save**. This changes you from a Defendant Attorney to a Plaintiff Attorney or a Guardian ad Litem.



- 12. If you are a Plaintiff's Attorney or a Guardian ad Litem for a plaintiff or plaintiffs, click the Check box to the left of the name of the plaintiff or plaintiffs you will be representing. If you are a Guardian ad Litem for a defendant or defendants, click the Check box to the left of the name of the defendant or defendants you will be representing.
- 13. Click **Next** to save the information and return to the Add a Document page.





- 14. On the Add a Document page, select the Parties you are filing On behalf of from the dropdown. Because you connected yourself to your parties on the Notice of Appearance page, selecting All My Parties in the dropdown will correctly identify all your parties when multiple parties are represented.
- 15. Click Add to add the names of all your parties.
- 16. Click **Next** to continue to the Review and Approve Filings page, and submit your filing.